

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolae." VING.

VOL. I.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1820.

NUM. 45.

AGRICULTURAL.

REPORT

OF THE CURATORS OF THE
Agricultural Society
OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

At their Anniversary meeting, held in Columbia, in December, 1819.

TOGETHER WITH A LIST OF THE OFFICERS
FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

Gentlemen,

The transactions of the South Carolina Agricultural Society, since the last annual meeting, have not been as interesting and extensive as the Curators might have wished. A variety of untoward circumstances, have impeded, in a great degree, the progress of business. To enumerate them all is perhaps unnecessary.

The sixth article of the constitution says, that the board of managers shall meet on the last Saturday of every month, &c. Some difficulty has most generally occurred on that day that prevented the meeting—at one time, the gentlemen of the bar belonging to the board were obliged to attend court—at another time, a muster would throw an obstacle in the way of several others; and it was always very troublesome for such of the members of the board as live in the country, to come on Saturday, when some of them, being directors of the bank, had been in Columbia on the preceding day. The Curators, in this report, made in compliance to the 12th article of the constitution, beg leave to point out occasionally, such obstacles to the prosecution of their business, as may arise from each particular subject.

A number of grass and other seeds that had been collected during the preceding year, have been distributed according to the wishes of the Society, to such persons as were thought most likely to make experiments on them. Those persons were requested to make their reports, at any time, to the Curators, or at this meeting. As no report has been made as yet, it is presumed that some will be made by the individuals directly to the society. It appears to us more desirable, however, that hereafter, such reports be directed to be made to the Curators at such an early period as to allow them to be embodied with theirs.

The small experiment made last year on Guinea grass, an account of which, was laid before you, induced the Curators to take some steps to procure seed in such quantities as could be extensively distributed. With this view they have written to a gentleman whose frequent commu-

nication with the island of Cuba made it probable he could get it for us in large quantities, but we have had no answer to our letter, several gentlemen from Charleston however, particularly the Hon. Judge John Drayton and Henry Laurens, Esq. have presented and forwarded to us a sufficient quantity of seed of this invaluable grass so as to enable us to multiply the experiments. The seed has been distributed, and although we have no account from any one, of his success, we have reason to believe that none but two or three had a favourable report to make.

It will be recollected that the small experiment made the last year, by one of our board, was sufficiently satisfactory to induce the continuation of it. One of the parts of the Guinea plant, that had been divided into twenty-eight parts, was planted at the time in a small tub, with a view to give it during the following winter the protection of a green house, and the grass that had been suffered to remain uncut till frost, was covered with earth and pine leaves, so as to secure it from the cold of the winter. The former being confined in so small a space did not thrive during the summer, and when it was carried to the green house, was not very promising. With some care during the winter it was just kept alive, and in the spring when it was thought proper to divide and plant it in the open ground, it looked very badly. That which had been covered with pine leaves appeared also very unpromising. Of the latter, however, four good plants were made, and of the former, thirty-eight, including pieces of the stock which appeared in a vegetating state. They were planted in two rows, in a bed four feet wide, a little better than two feet apart in the rows. This was certainly closer than it should have been, for the ground was far from being rich, and it was supposed this distance might answer. This removal and transplantation from the house took place on the 15th of April, on which day also was sowed some of the seed sent by Mr. Laurens. Some of another parcel had been sowed before, on the fourth of March, but had not come up. The transplanted grass grew very well, and some of the seed came up in due time. Some of the pieces of the stock, however, did not grow, but the rest grew so well as not to be distinguishable from the roots on the 20th of May. This day offsets were taken from some of the most luxuriant plants, in order to fill up the bed, and on the 9th of July, having had a fine shower, some of the grass that had been sown on the 15th of April, was divided and transplanted. A number of the larger plants being selected to be preserved for seed, on that day, 9th of July, the grass of thirty-two of the other plants was cut and found to weigh, green, 32 lbs. On the 31st the hay made of the 32 lbs. green grass, was found to weigh 10 lbs. On the same day the grass of the same thirty-two plants was cut for the second time, and found to weigh 60 lbs. and when made into hay, 18 lbs. On the

25th of August the same thirty two plants were cut for the third time and weighed 98 lbs. which when dry, only weighed 22 lbs. On the 15th of September, the same thirty-two plants were cut and weighed 36 lbs. and when dry, 13 lbs. Circumstances prevented a fifth cutting before a frost, but from its appearance it would have weighed at least as much as the preceding; so that we may allow it the same, viz.—36 lbs. green and 13 lbs. when dry. Here is then, in the small space of thirty-four feet long by four feet wide, of a very indifferent soil, 262 lbs. of green grass, which, when made into very fine hay, weighed 76 lbs. which would make per acre upwards of 40 tons of green grass, and upwards of 11 tons of hay. This is a very great crop, and when it is recollected that the land in which this grew is of a very inferior quality, it is fair to conclude that in a better soil, and in a favourable season, the crop would be much greater. It is true that the cultivation of this grass is attended with considerable trouble at first, but when the product is taken into consideration, that trouble sinks into insignificance; and, if further experiments should fully prove that each joint of the stock, like that of the sugar cane, is susceptible of producing a vigorous plant, and this is almost reduced to a certainty, a much greater product must be expected, for it will be recollected that in the experiment above selected, the best and most vigorous plants were kept for seed, which they have produced in abundance. Some easy mode will then be found to preserve a few roots and a quantity of the stock till spring, and then planted on a large scale without depending on the seed. We have very little doubt but a piece of good and suitable land thus planted, would yield much more than that in the above experiment. When we consider the immense advantages that would result from so abundant a source of provender for our horses and cattle, we cannot help expressing a hope, that something will be done to promote further experiments.

On the 7th of January last, the honourable judge Desaussure presented to the Curators, a considerable quantity of spring wheat which he had procured in New Jersey, and which was said to be very productive. It has been duly distributed; and although no report has been made to us of its success, we have reason to believe that the experiments have been satisfactory.

A letter was also received about the same time from John Haslet, Esq. of Charleston, accompanying a small quantity of very fine Spanish wheat, which has also been distributed, and it is to be hoped that the reports concerning it will also be satisfactory.

In the course of the winter three hundred grains of Egyptian barley, weighing four drams, were given to one of our board, who planted them in his garden, the product was eight pounds four

ounces. Its growth was very rapid, and it suffered very much by the spring drought.

A small quantity of Oneida wheat, said to be a native of our country, in the vicinity of the lakes, was also sent by the honourable judge William Johnson. No report has been given in, but we have reason to believe that it did not succeed.

About the beginning of January we were induced to write to George G. Barrell, Esq. American consul at Malaga, in Spain, the following letter:

Columbia, South Carolina, Jan. 7. 1819.

SIR,

An Agricultural Society has lately been organized in this place under the name of the South Carolina Agricultural Society. It has for its objects to improve agriculture in every part of the state; to introduce from foreign countries such articles, the cultivation of which is likely to be advantageous to the state; to bring into use such implements of husbandry as may be necessary to facilitate the attainment of those great objects we have in view; to procure improved breeds of cattle and other domestic animals, &c. &c. We have taken the liberty of requesting your assistance, encouraged by an extract of a letter from you, to a member of the Albany County Agricultural Society, making to that Society an offer of your services. The extract alluded to begins thus: "As an American, I am happy to observe enlightened men forming societies in various parts of the United States, to promote the great interests of Agriculture. I shall transmit to you," &c. &c. The freedom with which we apply to you makes an apology necessary, but the liberal and enlightened views you entertain of the importance of such an association as this, in whose name we write, show that we need say but little on this subject. Begging, therefore, that our motives may plead our excuse, we venture on the expression of our wishes.

It appears to us that the similarity of climates between the country in which you reside and the state of South Carolina, promises success to such plants which you might judge proper to send us. We therefore beg you will, by a careful person, forward to us seeds or plants which you may suppose we have not, but might cultivate with advantage. There will be in this some difficulty, at which we grieve, and that is, in repaying you for any expense you may be at in complying with our request. We beg you will point out the means by which we may do this, either by transmitting the amount to any city in the United States, or to yourself at Malaga. As we have reason to hope that the grape vine might be cultivated here for the purpose of making wine, we would request particularly that you would send us a quantity of cuttings or rooted plants of the different kinds of vines cultivated in Spain. We beg leave, however, to notice that the soil on which we contemplate making our experiments, is a light sandy soil. A great part of our state is very sandy, and if we could introduce successfully the cultivation of the vine, the advantages would be invaluable, not only to our state, but also to the United States. Were we not afraid of trespassing too much upon your obligingness, we would also request that, if it be convenient, you would send us a short account of the manner of cultivating the vine at Malaga.

In the extract of your letter alluded to above, you mention a breed of hogs, that it would be very desirable for us to have here. You say of them, that "they are seen in droves of hundreds, all over Spain. They subsist in summer on weeds, and with a little corn in autumn, become astonishingly fat, and make the most delicious pork in the world." We would really be much obliged to you, if you would have the goodness to send us at least two pair of them. These or any thing else which your judgment might point out as proper to be sent, would be thankfully received and entitle you to our gratitude. We shall be happy in reimbursing you in any manner you may require. The funds of our society are yet small, we

must therefore act with economy; but you may be assured of our utmost punctuality.

We are, sir, with great respect,
Your obedient servants,

(Signed)

N. HERBEMONT,
J. P. TAYLOR,
JAMES DAVIS,
Z. RUDULPH,
J. M. HOWELL,

Curators of the South Carolina Agricultural Society in Columbia.

N. B. The packages to be sent to Charleston, to the care of Henry Bryce & Co. directed to the Curators of the Agricultural Society, Columbia.

P. S. If you send your draft on Messrs. H. Bryce & Co. it will surely be honoured at sight.

The above letter, the following answer was received on the 2d of November.

N. Herbemont, J. P. Taylor, James Davis, Z. Rudolph, J. M. Howell, Esquires, Columbia, South Carolina.

MALAGA, 17th August, 1819.

Gentlemen,

The duplicate of your much esteemed favour of the 7th of January last, never reached me until three days past, (the original never having made its appearance,) which will sufficiently account to you for my silence. I regret the circumstance much, because, had I received the letter before, you certainly should have been in the possession of all you require, and I fear you may think carelessness or inattention on my part the cause. However I seize the present moment to beg you will always remain assured of the pleasure I shall derive from an opportunity of furthering your views, and of the great satisfaction it will afford me to aid a society whose efforts are directed to the improvement of the most rational and I think, the noblest pursuits of human beings. You may rest assured, the first vessel going from this to any of the southern ports, shall convey the seeds, plants, &c. &c. which you name, accompanied with such remarks as may serve to give you an idea of their cultivation in this country, and consequently leaving you to make your own deductions. I beg you will make yourselves perfectly easy on account of the charges, &c. It will be sufficiently pleasing to me to be found in any degree serviceable to any body of men from any section of the union of our happy country, without dreaming of any other reward, which I could not on any consideration think of receiving. I have some reason to expect a vessel will call here from Savannah in the course of three weeks, for a cargo of fruit, and by her I shall transmit whatever I may deem worthy your attention.

Requesting you to excuse the brevity of this, and to be persuaded of my esteem and best wishes for your success and happiness, I am gentlemen very respectfully your friend and most obedient servant,

(Signed)

GEORGE G. BARRELL.

It is, gentlemen, very gratifying, and at the same time very encouraging to find such liberal assistance in a person totally a stranger to us, and it does, in our opinion, our general government great credit to send to foreign countries men of such enlightened views, and liberal principles. They are surely calculated to raise our reputation abroad, when at the same time, their exertions must be of infinite advantage to our growing country.

Several letters were received from Monsieur Barre, in which he expresses the fullest hopes of success in his vineyard, and in the last he speaks confidently of his making some wine this fall.

To the South Carolina Agricultural Society, at their annual meeting, on the 7th of December, 1819, in Columbia.

GENTLEMEN,

I have promised to inform you of the quality of the wine, the growth of my vineyard, near Landsford, on the Catawba, and on the light lands of this country. It is with much pleasure, gentlemen, that I fulfil this day a promise which becomes every day dearer to my heart, when I see that my vines succeed well and produce a liquor above my anticipation.

I have made this year a few gallons of wine, as much as I could have expected from the season and the age of my vines. Instead of a red wine, like that of Bordeaux, which I expected to obtain of plants brought from that country, I have been very agreeably surprised to find that my wine resembles much, by its colour, that of Madeira; it has a good body, and I should not be at all surprised, if, when it is two or three years old, it were as much valued as that produced in Madeira, which is so much prized by persons of taste.

Accept, gentlemen, the assurance of my profound respect,

(Signed)

JOHN BARRE.

*Vineyard of Bellaire, on the Catawba,
November 26, 1819.*

An experiment on the cultivation of the grape by one of our board was begun last spring, by planting, (about 1550) cuttings of divers species of vines, and some of these (about 100) were grafted in the roots of the wild vines and transplanted. Many of the cuttings and some of the grafts have failed; but the rest have taken well and are very promising. This experiment is carried on in our Sand Hills, and if it should be crowned with success, as there is some reason to hope, it will prove of invaluable advantage in many points of view.

The Heligoland beans were received too late to be planted at the season we conceived the most suitable. They were, however, distributed; but we have not had any account of their having been cultivated with success. They have generally yielded very little more than the seed. This failure is probably to be attributed to their having been planted too late, and in a soil not suitable. It is to be hoped that further experiments will be attended with more advantage.

We have received two pamphlets in the French language, from one of our honorary members, Monsieur F. L'Herminier, who has, since our last annual meeting, removed from Charleston to Guadeloupe. A translation of his letter accompanying the pamphlets here follows;

Basseterre, (Guadeloupe,) July 6, 1819.

Mr. Herbemont,

My dear sir, friend, and very dear correspondent, I have but a moment to recal to your remembrance my friendship and regard for you, and for our good, worthy and excellent Carolinians, and to inform you that I am sending to

Philadelphia a box of seeds from Europe, (153 species) which is to be divided between the Botanic garden, of that city and our society. It is to the care of Monsieur Le Sueur, a painter in natural history, as modest as he is skilful, that I address the whole. Be so obliging when you receive this feeble proof of my remembrance, to say, and repeat to our society, that I am very far from forgetting them, and that in the new career I have entered, I shall avail myself of every opportunity to prove that I am still an American in heart. You will oblige me if you can send us here seeds and fruits of all kinds for our experimental garden. Send us useful things, grasses, &c. I am collecting, to be sent to you by the first opportunity, seed of the Guinea grass, (*Panicum Jumentorum*,) &c. I am afraid of losing this opportunity, and I conclude by assuring you of the sentiments of esteem, consideration and friendship with which I am for life your servant,

(Signed) F. L'HERMINIER.

The seeds mentioned in this letter have not been received, but Monsieur Le Sueur, to whose care they were left in Philadelphia, has been written to and we hope to hear from him shortly.

The cotton crops have generally been very good; but the disease of the cotton, plant called the rot has made very alarming progress, and some planters have suffered very materially by it this season. It is much to be regretted that experiments have not been made to ascertain fully the cause of so disastrous a disease, and the best mode of preventing or at least diminishing it—or if they have been made, that they have not been communicated to our board, by which it might be more readily imparted, to all interested.

With regard to the cause of this disease, many conjectures have been thrown out, none of which however appear to be very satisfactory. Amongst these we have heard of one which we think may be deserving of some attention. It has been thought that it may depend on too luxuriant a state of vigour of the plant, and is instead of a local disease of the pod, a constitutional disease of the whole plant. On this supposition it is recommended to continue the ploughing or hoeing, so as to cut the roots and keep under the vigour of the plant until a late period, when the danger of the rot is pretty well passed by. The above opinion, which has been communicated to us by a very intelligent and observing planter, is further supported by the experience of a large crop about thirty miles below Columbia, which had been very highly manured, and suffered by the rot more than any other plantation we have heard of this year. It has also been observed that in a cotton field a number of plants are found of a larger growth than the rest. Every part of the plant is larger and of course it is more productive, these plants, we are informed, are very easily distinguished from the others by the different colour of the stock, and it is generally found that these plants are not affected by the rot. Would it not be well worth the attention of planters to select the seed from these plants for the following crop, and if but a small quantity of it could be procured, it ought to be planted by itself, by which means an interesting experiment would be made. It appears to us that a premium ought to be offered for this object.

We have received a letter from John S. Beltinger, Esq. dated Pine Forest, Barnwell district, February 28, 1819, containing an account of two experiments which were made last year, on the culture of cotton. They are as follows:

1st. Made to ascertain the proper time for topping cotton.

I topped on the 4th of August, and also on the 3d of September last. To test this trial the same quantity of cotton was not topped, and the result was as follows—the cotton topped on the 4th of August produced at the rate 312 lbs. of seed cotton per acre. That topped on the 3d Sep. 498 lbs. and the cotton not topped 445 lbs. per acre. The frost of the 20th April having destroyed the first planting; this cotton was planted on the 29th of April, and killed by the frost of the 5th of October.

2d. Three half acres of cotton were planted in hills, 30 inches square. In No. 1 one stock of cotton was left in each hill. In No. 2 two stocks, and in No. 3 three stocks were left. The result was as follows: No. 1 produced 231 lbs. of seed cotton, and each of the others, 163 lbs. of seed cotton. Green seed cotton was planted in this field, and in the former experiment N. Orleans seed.

A change of seed, or rather seed procured from a distant country, offering fair prospects of benefit to the cotton planter in a variety of ways, the board of managers have directed that about 100 lbs. of Carthage seed cotton be procured of a gentleman in Baltimore, who has lately imported a quantity of it, which is said to be very fine. The curators have consequently taken measures to obtain it.

On perusing the second annual report of the American Society for colonizing the free people of colour in the U. States, it was observed that cotton is found growing wild in various parts of Africa. It being presumable that superior varieties of cotton might be procured by planting seed obtained from these wild plants, or from such as may have been raised from them in the country where it is indigenous, we are taking measures to procure a small quantity of it.

We also beg leave to recommend that premiums be offered for the discovery of a quarry of gypsum; for the largest quantity of corn on a given quantity of highland, and also for such other objects as the society may think most conducive to the interests of agriculture in this state. The premiums ought to be in our opinion, not pecuniary, but such as the successful candidate might exhibit with that honest pride, that is itself a considerable reward of merit. Such as a silver cup or other pieces of plate with a suitable inscription. Or the premium might be appropriated to the profession of farming: such as a plough or other instrument of agriculture, of excellent workmanship, and of the most improved construction.

The agricultural society of North Carolina sent us a circular letter, dated June 20th, 1819, giving an account of their formation, &c. and soliciting a mutual co-operation of efforts, which ought to distinguish societies labouring to promote common objects of great and general utility.

The board of curators, in compliance with a resolve of the board of managers, have subscribed

for two copies of the American Farmer, published in Baltimore by John S. Skinner, Esq. It is a very excellent publication, and in our opinion, deserves the most extensive circulation. One of the copies was requested to be left in the hands of the editor, to be sent us bound at the end of the year. The other is to be sent as it is published. Farmers and planters will find it a very abundant source of useful information.

We would wish with all due deference to recommend that the society, at its annual meeting would take such measures as may induce our state legislature to afford us that countenance and assistance, without which, nothing important can be executed. The state of our funds is such that we cannot even hire apartments for our monthly and annual meetings; and to deposit our papers, books, &c. without trespassing upon that which is to be applied to the most direct and immediate objects of the society. The want also of a farm is seriously felt. We cannot perhaps show the expediency of legislative aid better than by borrowing the language of a pamphlet entitled "An examination into the expediency of establishing a Board of Agriculture in the state of New York," &c. Only change the name of New York, that state so eminent for public spirit and noble enterprise, for that of South Carolina, which is equally disposed to promote useful institutions and the reasoning will apply with redoubled force.

"A new era has commenced in our agricultural history. The present year presents us with improvements that give a satisfactory pledge of the vast acquisitions which await us. The first states as well as the first statesmen in our union, are now lending their efforts and their talents to a source of national power and greatness, that will repay their exertions with a rich and lasting tribute. The light of Europe is before us. The sun of science illumines our paths. The wonderful advances in chemistry, mineralogy, geology, and botany, which mark the present period with lustre and glory, cannot fail of leading to investigations and experiments in the art of agriculture, that shall result in a magnificent acquisition to the age in which we live, and a benefit of the deepest moment to posterity. Such prospects demand the exultations of a great people, sensible of their advantages, their interests, and their future fame.

"Adopting the theory as correct, that the richness of the soil bears a proportion to the decay of luxuriant vegetation on its surface, and the abundant fertility of our state is palpably evident. It has been enriched by the growth and decay of vegetable substances for centuries, and inexhausted by the hand of improvement. Our state also abounds in those mineral treasures which are calculated to increase the fruitfulness and enhance the value of the soil. The important article of gypsum, which has for years been imported into our state in immense quantities, from the British dominions, has been discovered in the heart of our western district, in inexhaustible quantities. On what then, does the science of agriculture rest? Is it indeed an humble art, confined to a sphere that is depressed and contracted, and only to be improved by those who turn the glebe, scatter the seed, and reap the harvest? Does not the science of agriculture, even in the brief and

partial view which we have taken of it, rest its foundation on a knowledge of natural philosophy, so far as to decide on the nature and changes of climate; a knowledge of mineralogy botany, geology, and chemistry, and of natural history, to the latitude that the rearing and nourishment of live stock is involved; and may we not even include the mechanical arts, inasmuch as they are connected with labour-saving implement of husbandry and other external improvements? And will it be pretended by the considerate, the liberal, and the reflecting portion of the community, that agriculture, whose successful encouragement involves branches of knowledge so deep and intricate, should be left to make its own progress to perfection, as time, accident and ignorance shall dictate? Shall the fundamental and vital art that sustains all others, be left the deformed victim of habit, penury and prejudice? We believe, nay, we know, that there is a proud and enterprising spirit in our community, and among our farming interest too, that brands with indelible marks of denunciation, such a supposition as this. Our agriculture must and will receive the solid and growing patronage of an intelligent people and a wise and energetic government. To say that agriculture does not need the extraneous aids which science can extend—to maintain that it wants not the light of those experiments and suggestions, which are the invaluable offspring of great men's researches and reflections, is paying a degrading tribute to the triumph of ignorance, and weaving garlands around the brows of stupidity. It is discarding common sense, and extinguishing the light of truth, when such acts blast the interests of communities and states, and cast a disgraceful blot on the lustre of the age. 'Leave the farmers to themselves,' is a common remark, and it is a remark that is characteristic of a cold heart, a penurious spirit and a weak mind. It would as well apply to all the occupations that engross the labours of mankind, as to the art of tillage. To whom are we indebted for those philosophical improvements which are applicable to domestic purposes, and extend to an immeasurable degree the blessings of existence? Let us inquire then how other nations have rapidly progressed in agricultural improvements, and by what means the state of *South Carolina* must advance this fundamental branch of industry, this true and unfailing support of her grandeur. In France, in Italy, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, England, and other European countries, the art of tillage has been carried to a great height of perfection. This has been effected by a systematic course of measures, commenced with liberality and prosecuted with unceasing energy and perseverance. Gentlemen, we said that the state of *N. York* was eminent for her public spirit and noble enterprise; we repeat it, and bring for proof the following paragraph from the same pamphlet, and this will be our conclusion, begging that if we have exceeded our limits in this report, the importance of the subject, and the necessity of pressing it with force, will plead our excuse. The writer goes on:

"It becomes every state and every government to act right and to act with consistency. New York has for years past pursued a noble and liberal course of policy, in relation to public improvements. When we look at what we have

done, when we look at what we ought to do, and at our capacity for doing it, hesitation appears degrading and reproachful. Look back and see the magnitude of our appropriations for useful purposes beyond the ordinary sphere of legislation. We have appropriated a school fund for the diffusion of elementary education, whose moneys invested in stock, the value of land, and other property attached to it, amount to 6,675,199 dollars. We have appropriated 60,000 for the promotion of medical science. We have given 74,268 dollars 75 cents for the encouragement of botany. For the support of colleges we have paid 750,000 dollars, and for academies 100,000 dollars. Here we find an appropriation of more than seven millions and a half, within the last few years, for the encouragement of education and science. For military expenses we have appropriated nearly 300,000 dollars, and for the support of criminal jurisprudence 976,157 dollars, 47 cents, making between nine and ten millions in the whole, for these purposes. In this partial view of our liberality, we say nothing of the appropriations for more than sixteen hundred miles of turnpike roads, opened by the state government, in conjunction with individuals and corporations, and of the thirty five or forty bridges, which for the most part have been erected during the last ten years, in the same manner. It is with pride and satisfaction that we recall to our mind all these facts, so honourable to the character of the state. What is now asked at the board of the treasury? We ask the guardians of our public welfare, to extend the basis of our wealth and power as a state, by a public exercise of that authority with which they are clothed by the people. Commerce, manufactures, and the arts have drawn their vital nutriment from agriculture. She has enabled our ships to spread their canvass and plough the ocean. She has fed the artisan, and given him the materials of his occupation. She has erected temples for the arts and sciences, and opened her treasures to give them pecuniary aid. She has covered the borders of our waters with splendid cities, towns and villages; she has sustained our treasury, and sent armies into the field, to fight the battles of our country, and reap the laurels of victory and renown; and through all this, while fifty years have rolled away with a prosperity unknown in the history of any ancient or modern people beyond the bosom of our own republic; she has never raised her voice, but as a benefactress. She now speaks in an hour of unclouded prosperity. She demands not that other professions and other pursuits should contribute to her benefit; but she asks their permission to retain an humble portion of her own munificent contributions to the resources of our treasury, for her own improvement that she may do still more for others. It is time that the cultivators of the soil should be heard. While law and physic, while commerce and manufactures have filled so large a space in the public eye, we have too far forgotten the farmers in our legislative bounty, the brave and hardy yeomanry who in peace or in war, in prosperity or misfortune, have borne the state upon their shoulders, and opened their breasts to her defence and their purses to her credit. Is agriculture of less consequence than other subjects of legislation?—From this branch of industry shall the legislature turn with a cold heart, a penurious spirit, and a

contemptuous eye? Shall the agricultural portion of our great community be turned away from the halls of public deliberation with scorn and derision? We choose legislators and rulers to protect and watch over our public interests, and there is too much wisdom, too much patriotism, and too much liberality in the executive and in the legislature to treat the encouragement of agriculture in any other manner than its vast importance deserves."

N. HERBEMONT, Chairman.

Signed by order of the board of Curators.

Officers for the ensuing year.

President: Gen. William R. Davie.

Vice Presidents. Col. Francis K. Huger, Maj.

T. Taylor, Col. John J. Chappel,

Col. Wade Hampton.

Corresponding Secretary. Wm. F. Desaus-
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Recording Secretary. D. J. M'Cord, Esq.

Treasurer. Alexander Herbemont, Esq.

Curators. Nicholas Herbemont, Esq. Doctor

James Davis, Zebulon Rudolph,

Esq. Jesse P. Taylor, Esq. Jesse

M. Howell, Esq.

To the editor of the American Farmer.

The little controversy which has lately appeared in the *American Farmer*, between, "A Subscriber" and "A Friend," about the virtues of the *Ruta Baga* or Swedish turnip, in the course of which the relative value of potatoes was mentioned, reminded me of an intimation long since given, that I might make to you a communication on the latter of those roots. I now submit to your disposal some observations on both; and add a few on the Mangel Wurzel, or greater beat, and on carrots.

Novelties in agriculture as well as in other things, if fair in appearance, and confidently recommended by persons entitled to general credit, are often implicitly adopted and zealously pursued, until sober experience shall have detected the fallacy. The encomiums passed on the *Ruta Baga* by that extraordinary man William Cobbett, and his reprobation of potatoes, are perhaps equally extravagant. If there be truth in the analysis of these two roots, by Sir Humphrey Davy, the same weight of potatoes contains more than three times the quantity of nutritious matter that is found in the *Ruta Baga*.—Yet if both be fed in their raw state, to domestic animals, the latter may be found the better root.—For human food, raw potatoes would be intolerable, while the *Ruta Baga* is not unpalatable. Yet if both be equally well cooked, few can hesitate to give a decided preference to the potato, as well in regard to taste as nutrition. The potato, if a good and mealy kind, will well supply the place of bread. Its value in this respect, is satisfactorily ascertained in the British Isles, more especially in Ireland, where the practical judgment of that class of its population which makes the greatest use of potatoes, very well accords with Mr. Davy's analysis of grains and roots. He states that of a 1000 parts of wheat, 955 are nutritive; and of potatoes 200 to 260 parts.—Now in a report to the English board of Agriculture, in the year 1795 by an intelligent Irish Gentleman, Samuel Hayes, Esq. it is stated "That the nourishment from one pound of good household wheat bread, is equal to five pounds of the best sort of potatoes." That this was first suggested to the "ingenious gentleman" Mr. Broughall, who gave the information to Mr. Hayes, "from a memoir on the subject by Mr. Parmentier, a French chymist; and has since been supported by many corroborating circumstances. Mr. Broughall having observed, that whatever weight the shilling household loaf consists of in Dublin, five times that weight of potatoes may have been bought at that time for the same sum; and if by any cause the price of potatoes should rise

above that proportion with respect to bread, the lower class then decline the purchase of potatoes; experience having taught them the cheapest mode of support." Mr. Hayes adds, "That as in the country parts of Ireland, the fowls, pigs and dogs come in for their share, (of potatoes) there is certainly more consumed than five times the quantity of bread, which might be necessary; but it is far from thrown away; the family by this means eat none but the soundest and most palatable potatoes, while the refuse supply equally the wants of the other animals. We must also add, that another cause of increased consumption arises from the universal practice of allowing the little children of the house to roast potatoes for their own use, as often as they please, in the turf or wood ashes. As you ride by a cottage, you frequently see a group of children run to the door, each one holding in his hand a roasted potato; and to this facility of procuring plenty of wholesome sustenance, at this stage of life, may be attributed the robust health of our peasantry, and the great population of our country." But according to Mr. Cobbett, the potato, when analysed, contains chiefly dirt, water and straw; and seeing that Ruta Baga, according to Sir H. Davy's analysis, contains only 64 nutritive parts (while the potato contains 200 to 260) in a 1000, of what do the remaining 936 parts consist? Doubtless as truly as the potato, of dirt, water and straw.

The common opinion of the injurious if not poisonous quality of the juice of the potato, is probably correct; and will account for the often stated fact, that raw potatoes will barely keep swine alive; while the experience of many farmers will incontestably prove, that when boiled [the water in which they are boiled being thrown away] potatoes will greatly contribute to the growth and fattening of hogs. Even in their raw state, they are unquestionably useful in the fattening of cattle, and for increasing the milk of cows, while fed on hay or other dry fodder in winter. Probably, raw potatoes while full of juice, if useless or injurious to swine may be a salutary food for cattle; certain it is, that the latter eat them voraciously, which is not the case with swine. Yet even swine will not only live but thrive upon them, when having been spread and dried until shrivelled, they are kept till after mid-summer of the year succeeding their growth. The juice of the root of one species of the Cassada, is poisonous; but this being expressed, wholesome bread, much used in the West Indies, is then made of the roots.

Some sorts of potatoes must yield more nourishment than others; and hence the difference in the results of Sir H. Davy's experiments in analysing them. The mealy and well flavoured potato might have that superiority over the watery and ill flavoured. The same remarks will apply to other roots. Much also, as to their quantity of nutritive matter, may depend on the nature of the soil where roots of the same kind are raised. I once pulled a flat turnip of the common kind, weighing two pounds, from the deep rich soil at the foot of a hill, and another weighing only one pound from a dry gravelly loam; both were boiled and mashed; and when the watery juice of each was pressed out, the eye could not determine of which there was the greatest quantity; both were well flavoured.

The potatoes of Nova Scotia and the remoter parts of the District of Maine, (like those from England and Ireland,) are vastly superior to those generally raised in Massachusetts and the states still further south. It is the common opinion that potatoes require a dry (and consequently a warm) soil. This, as to the United States in general, is doubtless an error. Ireland and the west of England are moist and cool countries; and from them have usually come the best potatoes. In all but the most northern portions of the United States, it would seem advisable to choose moist and cool grounds, with northern aspects, for raising potatoes, at least for the table. Dr. Anderson, if I mistake not, some where mentions a very dry summer in Great Britain, when the

potato crops were small in quantity, and the roots of very ordinary quality. The next summer was amply moist, and then the potatoes were abundant in quantity and of excellent quality.

My own observation and experience have satisfied me, that, generally speaking, potatoes improve in their quality when carried from a warmer to a colder climate; and just the reverse happens when carried from one colder to a warmer. In the latter case, the produce of even the first year has generally borne hardly a resemblance to those planted; these were mealy and finely flavoured; their produce moist and of indifferent flavour. The best early potatoes I ever had, were produced from a handful of small ones brought from Maryland. It was in the third year that they attained their greatest excellence. They were afterwards confounded with others and lost, for want of my personal attention.

We have in Massachusetts a very productive potato, said to have been brought from the river Plate. It is a long red potato, which I have cultivated for a dozen years, I think it has been constantly improving in quality; and has now become a good potato for the table especially in the spring.

Of the same sorts of potatoes, individual roots are greatly superior to others. Perhaps the proportion of the latter may be increased, (if thereby an entire crop cannot be obtained,) in the following way; select the fairest roots of a large size, and plant them entire in hills, one potato in a hill. When the produce is ripe, boil two or three from each hill, carefully marking from what hills they were respectively taken, and save for seed the residue in the hills giving the best samples. This process a few times repeated, may furnish potatoes of a uniformly good quality.

But to return to the Ruta Baga. Your correspondent "A Friend," refers the other "A subscriber," to Mr. Barney's application of this root, in feeding his two fat oxen, as stated in the first number of the American Farmer. But what is found there? That those extraordinary beeves were fattened on that root? Just the reverse. It was Indian corn meal which improved and finished them so highly, and the Ruta Baga was used rather as a condiment, to give the oxen a better appetite for the meal. They were two years in fattening. The first winter they ate equal quantities of Indian meal and of the Ruta Baga; but as the latter contains (according to Sir H. D.) only 64 nutritive parts in a 1000, while Indian corn probably contains at least 900,* the meal contributed fourteen times as much nourishment as the Ruta Baga. In the second winter the difference was still greater; the ox Columbus then eating daily from 12 to 16 quarts of meal, and only three to twelve quarts of Ruta Baga. And you mention that Mr. Barney "gives the preference to Indian meal over every other species of food for fattening either sheep or cattle, and gives it in its dry unsifted state." It has ever been the practice of farmers in New England, in stall-feeding cattle on hay and Indian meal, to give the latter in the same form. From American farmers, probably, Mr. Barney an Englishman, learned that manner of using Indian meal.

You say also, that "Mr. Barney concurs with Mr. Cobbett in the belief, that the Ruta Baga is sweeter and far more nutritious than any

* "In the last century, a professor of Chemistry in Italy, discovered that the meal of maize, (Indian corn) like the meal of wheat, contained not only starch, but a soluble mucilage or extract, and a glue of the same nature as animal matter."

This is stated by Dr. Pearson, in his analysis of the potato root, communicated to the Board of Agriculture; which, as well as Mr. Hayes' communication above-mentioned, appear in a report on the Culture and Use of Potatoes, published by the board in 1795. I wish some of our chymists would analyse the best sorts of Indian Corn; I am inclined to think this grain contains nearly or quite as much nutritive matter as wheat.

other root, or vegetable for feeding live stock." But this is mere matter of opinion. Even to the taste, the parsnip, carrot, and every sort of beet, is manifestly sweeter; and to decide practically the value of Ruta Baga, compared with other roots, in fattening cattle, more accurate experiments will be necessary than have been made with either. In the mean time, we may more confidently rely on the analysis of vegetables by so distinguished a chymist as Sir Humphry Davy. He states, that the red beet contains 121 parts in a 1000, of saccharine matter or sugar—the white beet 119 such parts—parsnips 90, and carrots 95; while the Ruta Baga contains no more than 51 such parts. The mangel wurtzel, or greater beet, is in taste like the red and white beets, and doubtless contains as much saccharine matter; all of them more than double the quantity of nutriment that is afforded by the Ruta Baga; and parsnips and carrots fifty per cent. more. On strong lands in England, the mangel wurtzel yields currently 48 tons per acre. See Memoirs of the Philadelphia Society of Agriculture, Vol. III. Appendix p. 97, where the mode of culture is given, for the regular production of such immense crops. Of carrots, eighteen tons (upwards of 700 bushels, 56lbs. to the bushel) have been raised on an acre in Massachusetts; and these, as well as the mangel wurtzel, cattle eat with great avidity. For cows giving milk, both are to be preferred to the Ruta Baga, even if they gave no more nutriment. In the last autumn, the flavour of the butter was very much injured by my cows feeding plentifully on the neches and leaves (greens, as Mr. Cobbett calls them,) of the Ruta Baga.†

Conclusion.

Ruta Baga sown in June will yield great crops: the seed vegetate quickly, and the plants soon attain a size to admit of easy culture. The root is hardy, will endure severe cold and keep till mid-summer of the year following their growth; and are usefully applied for food to all domestic animals, cows giving milk probably to be excepted.

Mangel Wurtzel, cultivated in the same manner, and sown in April or early in May, will yield crops as large as the Ruta Baga; individual roots growing to the weight of from 5 to 10 pounds. But the roots will not bear frost like the Ruta Baga. It will be more easy to preserve them in winter, in the middle than in the northern states. The genuine mangel wurtzel is of a red colour; and when full grown, has more than half its body above ground.

Carrots being of a smaller growth than either of the former roots, seem to require a different arrangement. Instead of one row on a ridge, I would sow two rows, ten or twelve inches apart; and thin the plants to 4 or 5 inches distance in the row, with intervals of three feet between the

† A late English writer (Bonington Moubray, Esq.) treating of the food for milch cows, says "Cabages may be given moderately, but turnips (he probably means the common turnips) make thin milk and bad butter, in spite of all the nostrums which have been recommended as preventives." I fear the Ruta Baga will not be wholly free from the same objection.

double rows, for tilling them with the plough. In this manner, I entertain no doubt that twenty tons and upwards to the acre may be raised.

Both carrots and mangel wurtzel, being of much softer texture than Ruta Baga, are more easily chopped into pieces for cattle. It is generally understood that cows giving milk in winter, if fed plentifully with carrots will produce yellow butter. Mr. Jefferson's authority may be adduced for stating, that the famous Parmesan cheese of Italy, receives its light yellow colour from the juice of carrots, mixed with the milk or curd. The flavour of American cheese has sometimes appeared to be injured by an excessive use of annatto; the same colouring that has long been used in England. The practice doubtless originated in deception, to give that colour artificially which rich milk afforded of itself, a fine yellow. The practice in both countries is now continued from fashion. The Parmesan, according to Mr. Jefferson, is a two meal cheese, made of the night's milk skimmed, (the cream being taken off very early the next morning for making butter) and mingled with the new milk of the morning. It is not a fat cheese, and this accounts for it.

I am, Sir, your obed't, serv't.

T. PICKERING.

January 4, 1820.

From a Series of Essays on Agriculture and Rural Affairs; by "Agricolo," A North Carolina Farmer.

Horizontal Ploughing.

There is no improvemet in agriculture which promises to be of more lasting benefit to our country, than horizontal ploughing.

Such has been the system of agriculture among us for ages past, that hilly or broken lands have been no sooner cleared, than wasted.

To test the correctness of this assertion, we need only cast our eyes over the different parts of our country, to behold thousands of acres of hilly land rendered entirely barren, not so much from the vegetable nutriment being extracted by the crops cultivated thereon, as from the soil itself being washed away and deposited in low and sunken places, creeks, rivers, &c.

What would be the consequences of such a system of Agriculture, if it admitted of no remedy or improvement. As a great part of the United States consists of hilly or broken land, the consequences would not only have terminated in the destruction of the soil; but would have extended to the impoverishment of half a nation, and even the destruction of navigation itself.

I do not, therefore, hesitate to believe, that horizontal and deep ploughing, promise to be the salvation of our hilly lands, particularly if combined with enclosing, the use of Plaster of Paris and Red Clover.

Horizontal Ploughing was first introduced

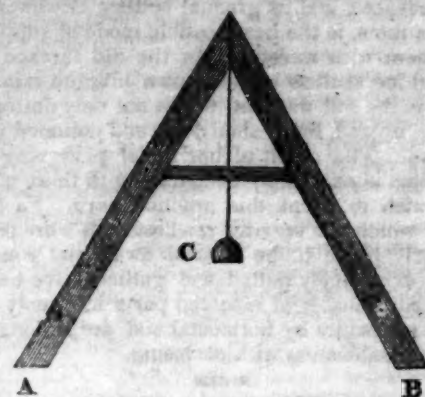
into practice in this country by Col. Randolph of Virginia, son-in-law to Mr. Jefferson. Mr. Jefferson, who has frequently witnessed the great and beneficial effects resulting from this practice, not only on the farm of Col. Randolph, but also on his own, thus details the mode of horizontal ploughing in a letter to a distinguished farmer of Massachusetts, and published in the Agricultural Repository:

"Horizontal Ploughing has been practised here (Virginia) by Col. Randolph, my son-in-law, who first introduced it, about a dozen or fifteen years ago. Its advantages were so soon observed that it has already become very general, and has entirely changed and renovated the face of our country. Every rain before that, while it did a temporary good, did greater permanent evil, by carrying off our soil, and fields were no sooner cleared than wasted; at present, we may say that we lose none of our soil—the rain not absorbed in the moment of its fall being retained in the hollows of the beds until it can be absorbed.—Our practice is, when we first enter on this process, with a rafter level of ten feet span, to lay off guide lines, conducted horizontally around every hill side, and about thirty yards apart; the steps of the level on the ground are marked by the strokes of a hoe, and immediately followed by a plough to preserve the trace; a man, or a boy of 12 or 15 years old with the level and two smaller boys to mark the steps, the one with sticks, the other with the hoe, will do an acre of this an hour, and when once done, it is for ever done. We generally level a field the year it is put into Indian corn, until all have been once levelled; the intermediate furrows are run by the eye of the ploughman, governed by these guide lines, and is so done as to lay the earth in horizontal beds of 6 feet wide with deep hollows or water furrows between them, to hold superfluous rain—the inequalities of declivity in the hill will vary in places the distance of the guide lines, and occasions gores, which are thrown into short beds.

"I have transferred this method of ploughing to a possession I have near Lynchburg 90 miles to the S. W. from this place, where it is spreading rapidly, and will be the salvation of that, as it confessedly has been of this part of the country.

"Horizontal and deep ploughing, with the use of plaster and clover, which are but beginning to be used here, we believe will restore this part of our country to its original fertility, which was exceeded by no upland in the State."

As many persons may not have a correct idea of the rafter level, the use of which is recommended in this Essay, the Editor has procured the annexed engraved representation of it.



A B, the feet of the rafter level C, a weight suspended from the centre.

It is necessary to caution the reader, that unless horizontal ploughing be correctly done, it had better not be done at all; because I have observed that many have attempted this mode of ploughing, without understanding its principles: If the water furrows, which are intended to hold the superfluous water, have the least descent one way or another, they will have the effect of throwing the water to one point, where such a quantity will be collected in heavy rains by a number of water furrows leading to the same point, as will inevitably produce a breach through the ridges. It is advisable, that before the level is applied to a field, its surface be made as even as possible; this is best done, if its unevenness renders it necessary, by flushing up the ground in the fall or winter with a mould board plough, and early in the spring to be well harrowed with a two horse harrow; this last operation will not only level the surface, but will have the additional valuable effect of breaking the clods and thereby effectually pulverizing the ground, which will prove of great advantage to the corn in every stage of its growth. The level in this case may be applied in the spring and the ground listed or thrown into horizontal drills for the planting of the corn. Success in horizontal ploughing depends on the exactness of the level to suspend, and the depth of the ploughing to absorb the water. Enclosing is indispensably necessary to make it beneficial, as by that, the earth is brought into a proper state for absorbing more water, and the suspension of the progress of this water by its vegetable cover, allows more time for the operation of absorption. In heavy rains, when the ground is in cultivation, and however accurately levelled, instances will occasionally occur of breaches across the horizontal beds. The remedy is, to fill them immediately with brush having the leaves on, well packed.

These instances, however, are very rare, and easily thus cured.

Besides the inestimable advantages from horizontal ploughing in protecting the soil against the wasting effect of rains, there is a great one in its preventing the rains themselves from being lost to the crop. The Indian corn is the crop which most exposes the soil to be carried off by rains; and it is at the same time the crop which most needs them. Where the land is not only hilly, but the soil thirsty, (as is generally the case with such lands) the preservation of the rain as it falls, between the drilled ridges, is of peculiar

importance; and its gradual settling downwards to the roots, is the best possible mode of supplying them with moisture. In the old method of ploughing shallow up and down hill, the rain as well as the soil was lost, which not only destroyed the upland, but rushed down and poisoned the valleys. The result of horizontal ploughing in Virginia is extremely encouraging to those who may wish to adopt this practice here. Farms there which are very hilly, whose soils were particularly liable to be washed away, and which were excessively galled and gullied, have been relieved probably of nineteen parts in twenty of those calamities by horizontal and deep ploughing in combination with enclosing.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF ALBEMARLE.

ON STONE FENCES.

No. 9.

[READ, Oct. 11th, 1819.]

SIR,—

In a former communication to our society on the subject of secret or covered ditches, among other arguments in favour of using stone for that purpose, I mentioned that we thereby, often cleared our fields of a great nuisance. Certainly a more obvious and more effectual means of accomplishing this end, is to use the stone as a material for fencing; and though every one, perhaps will agree with me in this opinion, and in allowing the great advantages of having our arable lands cleared of large stone, yet we scarcely see any attempt towards the construction of stone fences, even where the material is most abundant. At the same time, it is not uncommon to observe large piles of stone heaped together at considerable expense of labour, and occupying in some places a fourth or fifth part of a cultivated field.

The dread of innovation and the want of experimental enterprise, have heretofore been the reproach of our farming. I know many persons fully convinced of the efficacy of Gypsum in improving the soil who forego the use of it for the sole reason, that they have not been accustomed to it. In like manner many can give no better reason for not adopting the horizontal culture of corn in our hilly country, than that their father's did not practice it.

This horror of change can certainly be the only reason for heaping stones in a field, instead of disposing them along the sides of it in a fence. Perhaps the dread of encountering a tedious and untried undertaking may have deterred many from an attempt to construct stone fences. I can assure all such, that this dread is in a great measure unfounded.—More than 18 months ago; I made my first essay in this business, without experience of its ability to withstand frost, or knowledge of the method of erecting it. I commenced I confess, with considerable anticipation of encountering a tedious business, but was agreeably surprised to find when the materials were in place, that one man could erect ten yards in a day. The fence which I made was 4½ feet high, 3 feet wide at the base, and tapering equally on both sides to the width of 18 inches

at top. It has barred every kind of stock but sheep, and stood the frost of last winter without injury.

The mode of erecting it was regular and simple in the extreme. Take 4 stakes about a foot longer than the proposed height of the fence: point one end to be driven into the ground, and round the other to receive a wooden cap or collar, with two holes, bored at the distance of the width of the intended fence at top. Place two of these stakes in the ground as far apart as the proposed base of the fence is wide, and draw the tops together until they receive the cap. Do the same with the other two stakes, in the direction of the fence, at the distance of the lines you work by. Notches at 6 or 8 inches apart, should be cut in each stake to raise the lines to, and as you proceed to work, the position of the stakes always afford the proper level.

Mr. Thomas Moore, the present engineer to the board of public works, was with me last fall, and gave me some valuable information on the subject of stone fencing. He had resided in a part of Maryland, where it has been long and extensively practised, and stated that general experience had proved that in erecting such fences, it was necessary to attend to these rules. "Dig no foundation, unless it be to smooth or level the surface, taking care to leave no loose earth for the stones to be on. Then make the bottom course throughout of the smallest stones you have, and these as nearly of the same size as possible. Let no stones reach *through* the fence until the last course when if practicable most of all of them should reach through thereby binding all the work tight."

As frost is the only enemy to stone fences, the propriety of using small equal sized stones for the foundation, is manifest; for the expansion of the earth in freezing and thawing being uniform and regular, and the whole foundation being acted on alike, you thus avoid all risk of the fence being partially thrown down by frost. The other suggestions of Mr. Moore seem just, but I cannot speak from experience of their advantages.

An inquiry naturally presents itself on this subject;—What is the relative value of a farm fenced with stone, compared with one fenced with dead timber? Take the following data.

From the best accounts I have been able to obtain from others, and from my own experience, it may be fairly stated that one full month of the whole annual labour of every farm, is consumed in the various operations of cutting, mauling, hauling and putting up fences.—This is one twelfth of the year or one complete year in twelve, that is devoted exclusively to making and repairing dead fences;—and as the expense is annual, it is clear that the condition of such fences, is no better at the end of any year than at the beginning.—Again—I think it may be fairly stated, that when the materials are in place, the expense of erecting a stone fence does not exceed that of erecting one of rails, including the various operations above-mentioned. The value of the timber (which is not taken into the account above) and the advantages of having the land cleared of stone, will balance the expense of moving the stone 3 or 4 hundred yards. So that on a farm abounding with stone, and where

the transportation does not exceed this distance, I think a fence of stone, will in the first instance be as cheap as a rail one. Suppose then two farms of 500 acres of arable land each in all other respects equal, except that one is fenced with stone, and the other with dead timber. Each of them employs 12 labourers at \$100 a piece per annum. One is at no expense, while he who fences with timber consumes one month in every year, in making and repairing his fences. This is an expense of \$100, being the labour of one hand during a complete year. At annual compound interest, this would amount in less than 33 years to \$10,000, which is the entire price of the land, supposing the farm to be worth 20 dollars per acre. Thus in 33 years, the one farm would be able to buy the other, from the expense saved by the different mode of fencing. It is true there are not many farms capable of being entirely fenced with stone, but there are scarcely any that do not admit of it in some degree, and the advantages would be derived in a similar ratio to any part which could be thus enclosed.

P. MINOR.

Ridgeway, Oct. 1st. 1819.

Mr. Madison, President of the
Agricultural Society of Albemarle.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1820.

An accurate comparison of the relative merits of the different Wheat Machines now in use, in various parts of the United States, is very desirable—and we beg the favour of gentlemen acquainted with the different kinds, to give the information. Many who have never seen any thing of the kind, but are desirous of abandoning the old method of treading, are deterred from buying machines by the great difficulty of procuring good information in regard to their cost, and their power of executing the work, which their makers never fail to promise for them.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

MR. SKINNER:

I am pleased to find your paper is widely circulating over the country, and I think it promises to be the vehicle of communication, for all grades of the agricultural community.

You have undertaken an arduous task. The discussion (I may say) of a subject the most important to every class of mankind. It is a difficult task, and requires much consideration, to select from all your correspondents, for publication, those opinions which are entitled to most respect, and those practices, which may be proved to be most beneficial. And although there are some persons who write for publication, who might be displeased, when they are refused a place in your paper, yet as it would not contain the one fourth part of the communications from your correspondents, it is necessary that you should be allowed the privilege of selecting essays or extracts, which will best answer the ends you have in view.

This, to be sure, is throwing great responsibility on you, but as you assumed it, in the first instance, you will not shrink from the duty now. I do not know whether you have ever been engaged in agriculture, but I have seen sufficient

evidence, in your notes on different essays, to satisfy me, that you will make your paper, a very valuable Agricultural Repository, and I should be pleased, if you can find time to favour us with more extensive notes.

You appear to be desirous, that your correspondents should publish their names, but with great deference I must beg leave to differ with you in opinion. Men in high stations, may recommend erroneous practices, and a common farmer may state very important facts in contradiction; and if both statements go to the public unsupported by the influence of high character, the public will pay equal respect to, and impartially weigh the merits of both. For instance, suppose I should have stated in public print, that brine from my meat tubs, would effectually destroy thistles. I, an obscure farmer, on a small scale, could have had no influence on the public, or the printers, the matter would have passed off unnoticed. But when this discovery has been made known by a gentleman of great acquirements, who fills a conspicuous place in the annals of our country, it is copied into almost all the prints I have seen. I was really amused to find that letter going the rounds, as if it communicated something of great importance. The cure, I am sure, would be effectual, where the application could be properly made. Brine, if strong enough, will kill thistles, and it will also kill the largest tree in the forest, if applied in sufficient quantity. For I have seen the last season, a very large Lombardy poplar, which was killed by having a tub of brine emptied upon its roots. Brine will not only kill thistles, but it will also destroy every other vestige of vegetation. If thistles are numerous, it is impracticable to destroy them profitably in this way. The writer also says, that apple pumice may do as well—that is, that in the fall of the year when the seed from one acre of ground, shall have been wafted by the wind, over a much greater surface, you apply a plaster of pumice, to destroy the parent plant. How ineffectual is this plan also, and I cannot forbear to compare both those remedies to the Negro's powder for killing musquitoes. "Catch the musquito, take him by the back of the neck, open his mouth, and put the powder in his mouth."

Now, instead of applying brine or apple pumice, I would prefer the grubbing hoe, before the blossoms ripen. A man would destroy the weeds much sooner, cheaper and more effectually, with the hoe, than by the pumice-plaster or salt brine.

I have referred to this case, merely to invite your attention to the necessity of making judicious selections. I might also point to some other opinions, published in the Farmer, which differ from the experience I have had. But my experience has not been great, and my practices in agriculture, perhaps, ought not to be imitated. With your permission I may furnish you with some further occasional remarks, and as I do not write to be known, you will estimate my communications at what they may be worth, and I will freely consent that you may reject any thing you do not approve. I entirely failed in my Ruta Baga crop, owing to the uncommon drought last year.

Agricultural Societies.

The rapid improvements which have been made by our agricultural societies, while yet in a state of infancy, promise great and substantial benefits to the country. And it gives us pleasure to perceive that they are not insensible how important it is to a successful prosecution of their labours, to encourage the breed of that useful animal, the horse. In several instances, we see handsome premiums offered for the best stud, that shall be produced at their annual fairs. If our legislatures will only dismiss their mistaken prejudices, and second the efforts of these societies, but a short time will elapse before we shall have a breed of horses equal, if not superior, to any in the world. Let us therefore hope, that the numerous and respectable applications which have been made to our Legislature, now in session, to repeal their prohibitory acts, will not be made in vain. Within a few months past, a company of gentlemen have purchased at a great price the most perfect and beautiful Arabian stud, ever brought into this country, and if sufficient encouragement is held out, there is every reason to believe that others will follow the example.

Evening Post.

How to make White Spruce Beer.

For a cask of six gallons, mix well together a quarter of a pound of the purest essence of spruce, seven pounds of loaf sugar, made into a clarified syrup, and about a gallon and a half of hot water; and when sufficiently stirred and incorporated, put it into the cask and fill up with cold water. Then add about a quarter of a pint of good ale yeast, shake the cask well, and let it work for three or four days; after which bung it up, in a few days it may be bottled off after the usual manner, and in a week or ten days will be fit for use. If on bunging it close, about a quarter of an ounce of isinglass, first dissolved in a little of the warmed liquor, or in cider, be stirred in by way of fining, it will acquire a superior degree of clearness. In proportion to the coldness of the weather, the quantity of the yeast should be increased. Some instead of yeast, use ale or beer grounds the first time of making, and afterwards the grounds of their former spruce beer: in warm weather very little ferment is requisite.

RECEIPT FOR CURING THE TETTER WORM.

Take a lump of rock salt, size of a common hickory nut; the same quantity of alum and copperas—burn them separately on a shovel and pulverise them together—then put them in a bottle, and pour in half a pint of strong vinegar: and every night on going to bed, wash the part affected with a soft rag.

E. S. Virginia, 15th Jan. 1820.

Mr. Skinner:

I observed that for some time past you seem to have been so much occupied with farming and other matters, as to have entirely forgotten the Muses. I am sure that many of your readers particularly the ladies, would not object to a Poet's corner in your useful paper. If you have nothing offered at present more deserving, you may insert the following effusion.

Oh! oft have I met the sweet smile of affection,
As fondly it beamed from the languishing eye;
And oft has that smile kept the heart in subjection,
While cherishing hopes it half smother'd a sigh.
I've seen the bright tear from affection fast flowing,
Glide burning and swift o'er a rose colour'd cheek,
Her bosom with fear and fond hope softly glowing;
Spoke more by a sigh than an angel could speak.
I've seen the breast heave with tumultuous emotion,
While passion had chok'd up each heart breaking sigh,
Oh! could I then think that such love-like devotion,
Could fade in that bosom, could wither and die.
Could think that the smile which so oft was imparted,
A joy to my bosom that wealth ne'er bestows;
The tear of her eye too, by passion first started,
Was fated to fade like the morn blushing rose.
But alas! lovely woman how fickle thy heart;
Thy sighs and thy tears, thy vows too how vain,
The bliss which to-day thy fond smile can impart,
Thy frown by to-morrow may turn into pain. F.

GRASS SEEDS

OF FIRST QUALITY.

Red and White Clover, Orchard Grass and Timothy Seeds, of first Quality,

Received and for sale by the subscriber, Also

Ground Plaster, put up in barrels;

All of which may be had during the season, for sowing and plastering the land.

ELY BALDERSTON,
No. 61. Smith's Wharf.

February 4th, 1820.

P. S. It is found from the experience of many practical farmers, that the Orchard Grass stands unrivaled as pasture, it comes forward from two to three weeks sooner than any other grass, and resists the frost as much later, and covers the ground with a luxuriant crop if wanted to turn in. But for the purpose of manuring the land, it is believed no grass in this country, is equal to what is called the Tall or Saplen Clover, as its turn out is much heavier than the common Red Clover: and it may be had as above. It is well adapted to cultivate with Timothy, as its growth is about the same in height, and ripens at the same time; thus mixed the hay is far preferable to either, being separate.

Red Clover, \$11—White, \$15—Orchard Grass and Timothy, \$5, &c. per bushel.

Clover and Timothy Seeds.

The subscriber has just received a supply of Clover and Timothy Seeds, of superior quality. He has also on hand, Orchard and Herd Grass Seeds.

Apply at his Grocery Store, Calvert Street; where may be had a large and general assortment of Groceries.

GERARD T. HOPKINS.

February 4th, 1820.

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